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and know your  
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Failure

No. 4

Bay Ridge High School, Brooklyn, New York

January 20, 1961

## Steno Students Visit Large Business Firms

Trips to the New York Telephone Company, Fore Loyalty Insurance Company and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company were taken on December 8 by students and teachers of the Secretarial Studies Department.

Twenty-three girls comprised the group accompanied by Miss Antoinette DeMeo. One of the objectives of their tour of the New York Telephone Company was to see the various office equipment and how they performed.

From there they proceeded to the Fore Loyalty Insurance Company where the students and Miss DeMeo were escorted through the building.

The Underwriting Department was one of the many informative departments that they saw. In this department people are estimators: that is they determine whether or not a policy should go through.

Another interesting department visited was the Incoming Payments of the Industrial Division. Here premiums from all parts of the country are paid.

The most important part of the tour centered about the actual making up of the insurance policies. They

were shown how the insurance policies were set up and executed. After the tour the Recreational Center was shown to them.

Miss Concetta Gazzettino accompanied various students from the Secretarial Practice Courses and Advanced Stenography Courses to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. There they were met by Mrs. Shockett, a member of the company, who escorted them through the building.

Among the numerous offices and departments they were shown the Stenographic Offices, Transportation Department, Automatic Typewriting Department and the Punched Card Accounting Division. Through the courtesy of the company they were given a lunch.

"The most interesting department," said Miss Gazzettino, "was the Transportation Department. The girls in this department work on the basis of an incentive plan. Their own incentive to do more than the normal requirement of work enables them to earn more money."

Clubs Sponsor Seasonal Activities

### NEWMAN

The Bay Ridge High School Newman Club, a member of the Newman Club Federation, meets every Tuesday the ninth and tenth periods.

The club, open to all girls of the Roman Catholic faith, aims to give inspiration to these girls attending a public high school.

The meetings consist of prayers and various activities such as the organization of projects for the missions. Plans are being made for next term's activities which might include visits from Nursing Sisters and a Greek Catholic priest who will talk about Greek Catholic rites.

Miss Dorothea Gurmack is the director of the A.M. Newman Club. The director of the P.M. Newman Club is Miss Bernadine Ryan. These are both moderated by Father Robert Eckhardt from Our Lady of Angels Church.

### Contest Planned for Seniors

The fifth annual Poetry Reading Festival, sponsored by the Washington Square College of Arts and Sciences, which is open to all high school seniors with a flair for reading poetry aloud, will take place on Saturday, February 25 and March 4.

Scholarships to New York University's five undergraduate schools will be given to those seniors who win, place or show in the contest.

For a period of eight minutes, contestants will read from a text of poetry that they have selected. Contestants may select poems by poets of any nationality, but they must be read in English.

Judging will be based primarily on clarity and skill in leading listeners to understand the poet's thoughts and feelings, effectiveness in creating mood and atmosphere and adequacy of voice and diction.

The preliminary readings will be judged by high school teachers of speech. These will be staged in small classrooms at N.Y.U., with no audience except the judges and monitors.

The final will take place in a large room before an audience of parents, by February 15.

### TRINITY

The Bay Ridge High School Trinity Club, sponsored by the Protestant Teachers Association, meets every Thursday during the ninth period.

The club, open to all girls of the Protestant faith, aims to provoke inspiration and fellowship among its members.

The meetings consist of devotions, talks by guest speakers, Bible readings, discussions, hymn singing, and the carrying out of projects. This term, the club held ice-skating parties, filled Christmas stockings for the Lutheran Medical Center, and had dances with the Brooklyn Technical Trinity Club. The plans for the spring term include a rally at Hanson Place Central Methodist Church and a picnic.

Miss Edna Littlewood directs the Trinity Club at the Main Building; Miss Helen Pills is the director at the Annex.

teachers and friends.

Six winners will be chosen, and all will receive prizes of poetry books and recordings. In addition, the first place winner will be eligible for a scholarship of up to \$800 a year, the second place winner for a scholarship of up to \$500 a year, and the third place winner for a scholarship of up to \$300 a year. These scholarships may be used at any of the three undergraduate divisions at N.Y.U.'s Washington Square Center or at either the University College of Arts and Sciences or the College of Engineering at N.Y.U.'s University Heights campus in the Bronx.

The director of the competition is Volney Hampton, Assistant Professor of Speech at the University's Washington Square College of Arts and Science.

Any senior who is interested in participating in N.Y.U.'s 1961 Poetry Reading Festival should see Miss Elizabeth Kerwen, Chairman of the Speech Department or Miss Bernadine Ryan. All names of those who wish to participate must be registered by February 15.

## Graduates Give Their Farewell

Sixty-two eighth termers, constituting the smallest graduating class of Bay Ridge High School in the last sixteen years, will hold their commencement exercises on Monday, January 30, 1961.

The commencement exercises will take place in the school auditorium on Monday evening when the members of the January 1961 graduating class will end their high school careers.

Marguerite Ennever, who has attained the highest average for her four years in high school, will deliver the valedictory.

The three musical selections to be sung by the graduates at the exercises are, "Oh God! Beneath Thy Guiding Hand" by Leonard Bacon and John Hatton; "The Sunshine of Your Smile" by Leonard Cooke and Lillian Ray; and "Hello, Young Lovers" from the Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein musical, "The King and I." Since the beginning of the fall term, Miss Lillian Chianta has been working with the seniors, preparing them to sing these selections.

The senior orchestra under the direction of Miss Marie Petrullo, Chairman of the Music Department, will accompany the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America."

## Arista Elects Its Officers

The semi-annual elections for the offices of President, Treasurer and Secretary of Arista, the Honor Society of Bay Ridge High School, held on January 10, resulted in a re-election of last term's offices.

The incumbent officers, Inara Liepins (7-206A), President; Cheryl Yukarurth (7-203A), Secretary; and Marilyn Alexandersen (7-301A), were all re-elected to the same offices by the body of Arista, which assembled in room 201.

First on the agenda was the conclusion of all old business including the giving out of assignments for Regents week service in the program room and the reorganization committee.

Miss Maria T. Morales, faculty adviser of Arista, presided over the election proceedings, which were conducted by parliamentary procedure.

Miss Morales opened the elections by moving that nominations for the office of President be made. These were then followed by nominations for Secretary and Treasurer.

Cheryl Yukarurth and Marilyn Alexandersen were both re-elected unanimously to the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

## Letter Sent to Aid Ridgeites

Olympia Mottola, a graduate of Bay Ridge's class of June 1958 and a winner of a New York State Regents Scholarship and a scholarship to Long Island University, recently addressed a letter to Bay Ridge High School which she hopes will benefit Ridgeites who have scholarships and college in mind.

In her letter she wrote, "After hearing your complaints concerning the scholarship girls, I thought that I might be able to help them through my own personal experience."

"I wish that you would tell them that it is not what you as a teacher do for them that will win scholarships, but what they as future college students must do for themselves. The scholarship girls must not know

## Activities Planned For Next Semester

"The Powder Puff Bowl," a Parent-Daughter Dinner, post cards, and new benches may sound like a rather weird combination, but they all play a part in the activities planned for the Spring Term by the General Organization of Bay Ridge High.

A Parent-Daughter Dinner which will take place in the school cafeteria will be held sometime in February.

Also scheduled for February is an assembly on "What is the Student Code of Behavior?" The Executive Council is preparing this assembly which will be presented on February eighth.

The Spring G.O. Dance will be held in April. The vice-president, Concetta Baresi, is making plans for it.

"The Powder Puff Bowl" is tentatively being planned for May. This after-school social will be held with Brooklyn Tech.

The G.O. is sponsoring a new activity next term. Colored post cards of the Senior Garden in the Spring will be sold in school. Plans for replacing the benches in the Senior Garden are also in progress.

The various clubs which are G.O.

## Bowling Now B.R. Pastime

sponsored are allowed money for their parties. The Blue Leaders and Junior Blue Leaders are only two of the clubs having end-term parties.

Every month there is an Executive Council Meeting. What is accomplished at these meetings and who attends? The Council is equivalent to the House of Representatives in our national government. It discusses any point brought up by a member and votes on it. If the point passes the council, it goes before the Board of Governors. These meetings are attended by G.O. officers, the G.O. representatives, the Grade representatives, the president of Arista and the S.S.C. leaders.

Most students are familiar with the G.O. Store. This store is run by Miss Kathryn Willson and is opened to students the seventh period in room 501. The store is stocked with school supplies: book covers, Sten. pads, Sten. pencils and Bay Ridge stickers, to mention only a few things.

The G.O. sponsors many activities but the students have to sponsor the G.O. The G.O. mascot is Go Go the Eager Beaver and he says, "Go Go—G.O.!"

## Leaders Hold Festive Party

The Honor Health Education Club of Bay Ridge, better known as the Blue Leaders, held its end of the term party on January 13, 1961.

The party opened with the singing of the traditional Blue Leader song. The highlight of the musical entertainment was the rendering of "You Gotta Have Heart." This song, sung by about twenty of the girls, was rearranged and rewritten by the Leaders to fit the occasion.

"The Shoe Store Scene," which depicted a Blue Leader buying a pair of sneakers, "Sewing In a Gym Class," and "The Winter Olympics," featuring Pat De Vito as the Queen, were a few of the skits which were presented in a light-hearted manner.

The highpoint of the party was the basketball game between the Senior and Junior members of Leaders.

Miss Mary Close, the head of Blue Leaders, presented the Nine Award to girls who have rendered special service to Leaders.

The President of Blue Leaders, Jo Ann Suarato, (7-211A), and the Vice-President, Margie Brown (7-106A), presented Miss Close with a charm bracelet.

## News Briefs

The graduating class of January, 1961, has presented a Thermofax duplicating machine to Bay Ridge High School. This machine will make mimeographing by means of electricity and heat, much easier.

The Mathematical Association of America is sponsoring its twelfth Annual Math Contest for which the representatives for Bay Ridge have been selected.

By Springtime, the Senior garden will have four additional new benches in order to replace the ones that had recently broken.

Several Ridgeites studying French went to the Kingsway Theatre on December 29, 1960, during their Christmas vacation to see "Dr. Knock" and "Brooklyn Goes to Paris."

## RIDGE ECHO STAFF

Issued four times a term by  
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BAY RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
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ELIZABETH T. FITZPATRICK  
Principal



January 20, 1961

No. 4

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## Bowed by Ages

"Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans upon his paws and gazes on the ground, the emptiness of ages in his face, and on his back the burden of the world."

This quotation refers to a very important little fellow—the ground hog. Come February 2, otherwise known as Ground Hog Day, he will have to muster up all the courage he can to meet the critical world of people which will await him above the ground.

Poor little fellow! Just think of all those mean glances he must face if, as his little footsteps lightly print the ground, the sun should cast his shadow. No one has ever experienced such persecution for a mere shadow. It is *his* shadow; he has a right to have one and yet a storm of anti-ground hog sentiment surrounds him the minute it appears.

Perhaps this year it will be different for our little friend; people may cheer and welcome him in gratitude for all his gallant years of difficult service. This will only occur, however, if we don't see his little shadow.

L.F.

## (TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 1961)

Pupils must be in their seats fifteen minutes before each examination takes place. Therefore, pupils must report to school before 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. on the days they are taking Regents examinations.

Tuesday, January 24

## 1:15-4:15 P.M.

City-Wide—Chemistry  
City-Wide—Physics  
City-Wide—Bookkeeping 2 Years

Wednesday, January 25

## 9:15-12:15 A.M.

Regents—Biology  
Regents—American History and World Backgrounds

## 1:15-4:15 P.M.

Regents—Mathematics 10  
Regents—Intermediate Algebra  
Regents—Trigonometry

Regents—Math. 12A and 12B  
City-Wide—Math. 11

City-Wide—Combination Shorthand, Typewriting  
and Transcription

Thursday, January 26

## 9:15-12:15 A.M.

Regents—English 4 Years  
City-Wide—French 2 Years  
City-Wide—Spanish 2 Years  
City-Wide—Italian 2 Years

## 1:15-4:15 P.M.

City-Wide—French 3 Years  
City-Wide—Spanish 3 Years  
City-Wide—Italian 3 Years

## Sororities Forbidden

A by-law of the Board of Education forbids the formation of sororities or secret societies of any kind in the city high schools. All pupils are advised that such clubs are not permitted. A Bay Ridge High School pupil who affiliates herself with a secret society or sorority of any kind will be subject to suspension from school, pending an interview with a parent. A notation will be entered on the pupil's record and business references for positions will be withheld for disobedience of this city regulation. If it is proved that a pupil is a member of a sorority, there is the possibility that she will not receive a diploma.

Wages and Benefits Soared  
Secretarial File Proves

By Marie Avona

Today, prices are high and taxes are as soon as the business starts picking high. Salaries, as high or low as they up a bit I will receive more. This may seem, (that varies from person to person), have risen with the times. I think that my employer is quite satisfied with my work. Furthermore, I have nice hours—from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and half a day on Saturday." "black and white" proof was found.

A folder in a file cabinet in that office is designated for letters from former Ridgeites. In this folder letters were found that had been written as far back as 1937. The following are parts of these letters.

1939—"I have been working at Saks Fifth Avenue since the middle of January as Secretary to the Collection Manager. The work consists of dictation and transcribing until early afternoon, and then typing statements and form letters the remainder of the day. When I finish early, I help the girl who does the filing. I am earning \$18.00 a week and hope to increase that soon."

1938—"Finally, after being very persistent, during the month of August, an agency obtained a position for me. It was a law office and in it there were four lawyers. I had to take dictation from the four of them, attend four telephones, do filing and also be a receptionist for only \$8.00 a week! I know that was a very small salary but I was willing to work for that salary in order to gain experience."

1937—"I work in a Detective Bureau and Law Office combined. Of course when I applied for the position they wanted an experienced girl, but I assured them that I would prove satisfactory if given a trial. The salary is very small, but of course, for an inexperienced girl like myself I guess it will do as a start. You see, I also received two weeks vacation with pay." (Irene Mikolajezak)

Times have changed and so have salaries. The folder shows us that the change was for the better.

Weather's Unpredictable:  
Forecast's Not Much Help

By Prudence Milite

In this lifetime we as individuals at most times be difficult and confound many new experiences. Certainly as a source of great wonder and amazement is the weather forecast, which will never cease to be.

Tomorrow there will be rain with varying periods of cloudiness and sunshine followed by snow which will be preceded by hail. As each new day dawns, every person is assured of knowing what the weather will be. You may ask how this is done. The method is listening to the weather forecast as it is illustrated above.

Listening to the weather forecast can be thought of as a game. Whenever a new forecast is heard, the trick is to try to decipher what the weatherman is saying.

This will come about quite easily; that is, with a set amount of practice! One must admit that trying to understand the weather forecast can

The problem is "What can be done to combat this ailment known as weather forecastism?" Some people say that the only case is to guess: in other words, to be prepared for what is chosen for the day. In spite of seeming ridiculous this might be the best method known. It may also serve to make the most interesting. Think of the new experience of being poked with an umbrella on one side and jabbed with sunglasses on the other.

The only logical and safe way to be prepared for the forthcoming weather is to bring all necessary equipment with you. It may seem annoying to carry rubbers when the sun shines, and an overcoat when the temperature rises above 70, but there isn't another known solution.

## The Principal Corner

This year has been one of considerable student activity—dances, assemblies, cheer leading, and boosting are a few of the activities that our pupils have enjoyed. We hope these, as well as others, will continue during the coming term.

There is an important activity in which all pupils are interested and in which we want their intelligent and dynamic assistance. I refer to pupils taking the right curricula and achieving marks that fulfill their abilities and talents. While most of our pupils are guided into the right courses through the wise counseling of their grade advisers, there are too many who are not fulfilling their potentials. The following instances seem inexplicable to me:

Girls #1—I.Q. 143, Reading Grade 12.1—failing at midterm in 10th Year Math; World History 1 and Biology 1.

Girls #2—I.Q. 151, Reading Grade 10.6—same failures.

There are 37 pupils with somewhat comparable records in present Grade 3. Some pupils tested in the Iowa Test at 99 percentile, which is better than 99% of the pupils throughout the country, yet are getting marks in the 60's or 70's in Bay Ridge.

Are these girls working to their best ability? Do they do homework regularly and completely? Is there a school difficulty of which we are not aware? Did these girls do exceptional work in the lower school? If these girls are as interested as they should be, they should have discussed their failures or low ratings with their subject teachers and grade advisers. Their mothers should come to see the grade advisers before or at the end of this term.

If these ratings do not come up to 90% by the end of this term, they will affect their school average adversely, and may be the cause of their denied admission to college in their senior term. While pupils in Grade 3 may not know at this time whether or not they are going to college, their correct educational placement is with pupils of comparable ability so they are prepared for college or other extension study such as nursing, or for the better types of jobs in which their high intellect will function.

My advice to pupils is—know your abilities, achieve your potentials, or know why you are falling short of them. If you wish to discuss your problems with me, my door is always open to a pupil or parent, as it is to a teacher.

*Elizabeth T. Fitzpatrick*

Principal

January 20, 1961

## Students Place Crown

"He who has put a good finish to his undertaking is said to have placed a golden crown to the whole."

Ah! Yes, it is a wonderfully refreshing thought to know that we are stepping on the last rung of another term. Even though it is the last rung, it is also just as important as all the others and deserves just as much devotion, in the form of continued effort and sacrifice.

This is the season when "old man winter" begins to touch the lives of many of us with weariness and sluggishness. This, however, is a battle we must win if we are to place that "golden crown to the whole"—that is to say, the whole term of hard work well accomplished.

When the "old chap" comes to knock at our doors and distracts us, we must put out the "No Peddling" sign; for we want no part of his gifts of boredom and weary struggling through to the end of things. So, let's "batten down the hatch," "close up shop," or whatever phrase is suitable to express it, but by all means let's stay away from "old man winter" and his drug of laziness.

L.F.

## Tests Are Formidable

"Examinations are formidable, even to the best prepared, for the greatest fool may ask more than the wisest man can answer."

We've had our "formidable Regents examinations" and it's fortunate for us that they don't occur more often.

It's a rugged life around Regents time; staying up late, getting up early, and missing meals in order to do more studying in the hope of attaining some confidence so that we might not go to pieces on that fatal day.

Even worse is the nail-biting period between the end of the examinations and the time when those large numbers engraved at the head of our papers are brought before our eyes. Well, it's over now anyway, so we can relax. That is, until June.

L.F.

## Here and There Around the Annex

Faculty Advisor...Miss Margaret M. Acer

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### Lost in the Snow

Whole bus lines,  
Two sneakers,  
Much energy,  
More time,  
Several trains,  
Many classes,  
Some teachers, and  
Thousands of pupils!!!

### Fashion Show

Have you ever wondered what's in that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Well, if you ask one of the Annexites, she will probably say it's filled with the latest fashions.

On Thursday and Friday, December second and third, the annual fashion show was presented under the expert direction of Mrs. Thelma Fishman of the Art Department. More than fifty girls modeled the latest teenage fashions in all the colors of the rainbow. The show was introduced by Carmen Salas (3-511). The commentators, who described each girl's costumes, were Theresa Nappa (3-411) and Barbara Petinos (3-505).

The mood of the production was set by the beautiful stage design of Mrs. Juliette Gordon of the Art Department. An inverted rainbow, made from several bolts of pastel material, filled the background of the stage. In the foreground, to one side of the stage, colorful streamers trickled down from the ceiling to the floor to create a curtainlike effect. The decorations, however, were not confined to the stage. Fashion pictures, done by the girls in their art classes, decorated the walls of the auditorium.



Alice Otten and Arlene Amunson on stage

Camille Pastore (3-508) was the singing star of the show. Her first song was the theme of the show, "Somewhere over the Rainbow." Members of the chorus joined in the singing. Later in the show Camille sang "I Enjoy Being a Girl." The girls were delighted with her manner of singing this number.



Camille Pastore singing

The fashions were shown in color groups—yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, green and white—black ensembles. As the commentator described a particular outfit, the model walked gracefully across the stage, down the stairs to the auditorium, and up the aisle to take her position against the wall. In this way, the girls were able to examine closely the outfits they liked. The clothes modeled by the stu-

dents were from their own wardrobes. The latest teenage fashions were shown for school, for play, for dress, and for formal occasions.

In one scene two students, Barbara Noragi (3-509) and Barbara Davis (3-504), showed how quickly fashion designers can create a new dress. The audience enjoyed watching them drape various materials around the "dummy" to create a beautiful evening gown.

At the end of the show, the audience joined with the members of the cast in singing "Somewhere over the Rainbow."

Congratulations to Mrs. Fishman, her assistants, and all the girls who worked so hard to put on this wonderful show. Special thanks should be given to the other members of the faculty who contributed to the success of the show. Miss Joan Tregde was the piano accompanist throughout the production. Mrs. Juliette Gordon created the stage design and Miss Elsie Johnson made the attractive programs. Miss Mary Sherotsky assisted throughout the show.

### Christmas Assembly

Songs and music filled the air during the Christmas Assembly on Thursday, December 2. The show was produced under the direction of Mr. Andrew Johnson and Mrs. Aurora Natt, who conducted the chorus.

Some of the numbers sung by the girls were "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," "The Chipmunk Song," and the traditional "Jingle Bells." Throughout the singing, Frances Rufin (1-104) accompanied the chorus on the piano.

Much to the delight of the audience, Karen Muhrke (3-501) sang a solo entitled "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth."

At the finale, the chorus sang "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." Suddenly a tremendous "Ho, ho, ho" was heard from Santa, who appeared to give his best wishes to the girls. Much to the surprise of the audience, Santa came down the aisle throwing snow flakes at them.

Many thanks to all those who took part in this tuneful show.

### Honor Assembly

The Honor Assembly took place on Friday, December 9. The four grade advisors, Miss Anastasia Plucker, Miss Mary Shea, Miss Rita Starita and Miss Mary Treacy, were present. Only those girls who received honor and high credit report cards attended this special assembly.

The top student in the freshman class is Alice Otten (1-04) who has an average of 95.4 percent. The next highest student is Francine Morales (1-301) who achieved an average of 95 percent. Miss Starita distributed report cards to the first term students who obtained honor marks.

Arlene Amunson (3-409) obtained the highest average in the sophomore class. Her average is 94 per cent. The second highest average in this group, of 93.5 percent, was achieved by Barbara Lauria (3-503). The sophomore honor cards were distributed by Miss Plucker.

Miss Shea then gave a short talk to all the girls. Her advice, however, was meant in particular for those students who plan to go to college. In her talk she stressed the importance of maintaining high marks in all subjects, throughout all four years of high school.

At the end of the assembly, Mrs. Anne Jones congratulated the girls on their scholastic achievement.

## Introducing... Dr. Robert Atkins

By Linda Michelson

countries. He covered 10,000 miles by air and 6,000 by car. Asked about his favorite food he said, "I like everything I eat with one exception. In Italy I ordered a dish called 'zuppa di pesce' which is muscles and squids garnished with octopus tentacle. I didn't want to try it!"

Dr. Atkins' trip to Europe wasn't entirely a vacation. When he was in Germany, he purchased his prize car—the Mercedes Benz. He has said, "It has no fins and it is small, but it holds six people quite comfortably." Some people have pets, but Mr. Atkins has his Mercedes Benz.

Born in New York City, Mr. Atkins attended Brooklyn Technical High School. He then went to Columbia University for four years and continued there at Teachers' College for his masters degree.

Although Mr. Atkins liked math and science and found them very challenging, he was never very good at them in school. He excelled in French and English but, instead, went on to teach the subjects he found so challenging.

At college, Dr. Atkins was interested in sports. During the football season he carried a flag with the band, but did not play because as he said, "I couldn't read notes." One college activity that he still engages in today is that of Public Address Announcer at the Columbia basketball games.

Half-way through college he decided to become a teacher. Before coming to Bay Ridge he taught for a year and a half at Dewey Junior High School. At Bay Ridge he has played a part in the assembly programs by supplying slides and being a consultant on background music. He has lectured in the Scholarship and English classes as well as planned the trips to the Shakespearean Festival at Stratford, Connecticut. Dr. Atkins is also one of "the people behind the program committee." As an assistant to Mr. Charles O'Neill and Miss Marie Ward, he plays an important part in the planning of the students' programs.

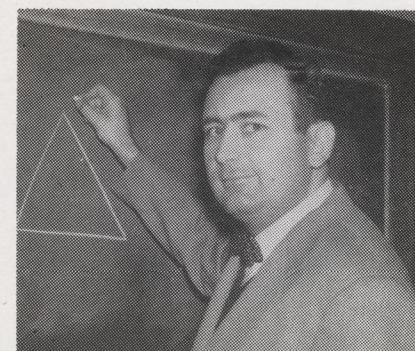
Questioned as to how he could accomplish so much, he said, "If you're really interested in something, you can somehow find the time to do it."

He has not only been an inspiration to students but to student-teachers as well. Miss Joan Doud warmly remarked, "Dr. Atkins has been a great help to me during my days as a student-teacher. His fine example has been in itself a stimulus to teach well."

Dr. Atkins loves teaching and remarked, "In many jobs you do the same thing over and over again and never see any results, but in teaching each day is a new experience."

This is Dr. Robert Atkins, Bay Ridge High School's "Mr. Versatility."

Mystery Celebrity: Miss B. Ryan



Dr. Robert Atkins

On October 24, 1960 a new doctor was born to the Bay Ridge High School faculty. From now on Mr. Robert Atkins is to be addressed as Dr. Atkins.

Our Dr. Atkins, alias "Mr. Versatility," has licenses to teach Physics, Chemistry, Biology, General Science, Earth Science, Mathematics and English. Discussing the subjects he has taught, Dr. Atkins has said, "About the only subjects I haven't taught are girl's health education and sewing!"

He has been a guest lecturer at Brooklyn College and Fordham University. He has lectured on the technical aspects of operating the tape recorder.

Last month, Dr. Atkins appeared before the Math Teachers Association of New York City and described the Summer Scholarship opportunities for math teachers.

Dr. Atkins is an avid music fan. He collects and listens to records as well as goes to the opera every Friday night. He also has "fiddled around with electronics" and has built a hi-fi set and several radios.

His interest in photography began when he was in the Army. He was an Army photographer and was sent all around the country.

Dr. Atkins enjoys travelling and spent the summer in Europe. He went to every country except Portugal, Scandinavia and the Iron Curtain who conducted the chorus.

Much to the delight of the audience, Karen Muhrke (3-501) sang a solo entitled "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth."

At the finale, the chorus sang "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." Suddenly a tremendous "Ho, ho, ho" was heard from Santa, who appeared to give his best wishes to the girls. Much to the surprise of the audience, Santa came down the aisle throwing snow flakes at them.

Many thanks to all those who took part in this tuneful show.

### Both Are Wise

### —Not Helpful

"In age there is wisdom." This is sometimes said by men of wisdom and sometimes by my two older brothers. I'll admit that those of the older generation are smarter than I but no one can convince me that my brothers have wisdom.

My brothers are 20 and 24 years old, I am seventeen years old. Since they have a few years more than I, they are full of advice. They claim they are helping me. I know that they aren't. For instance: "We went horseback riding today. My horse was so wild he almost threw me. If Marie had been on him she would have been thrown off." "Yeh, Mom!" continues my other brother, "You had better never let her go horseback riding. All the horses were wild."

The preceding bit of advice ended my date for Sunday afternoon a year later. I couldn't show up to go horseback riding because "all the horses were wild." They neglected to mention that tame horses are available for beginners and girls.

Through the years their advice has deprived me of many pastimes. Rowboating and fishing are two pastimes I've missed thanks to them. They even warned my mother about bowling. "The ball is so heavy it almost pulls you down the alley with it," they said. My parents took their advice at first but didn't stop me later because the game became so popular.

Wisdom my brothers lack but they are great as carpenters, electricians, masons, plumbers and the like. If I didn't have them who'd paint and wallpaper my room? Dad can't, that is for sure!

These two stories are true; they actually happened. Names have been withheld to protect the innocent. Can you solve the mysteries?

### (1) The Case of the Disappearing Water

Time: During a chemistry class at 9:10 a.m., on October 12, 1960

Place: Bay Ridge High School, Room 304

Mystery: An electric current had been passed through a mixture of water and sulfuric acid. Within a short while, the water disappeared.

Possibilities: (a) The water leaked out of the apparatus through a hole.  
(b) The chemistry teacher used some sort of magic.  
(c) When everyone's back was turned, someone borrowed and forgot to return the water.

### (2) The Case of the Vanishing Crystal

Time: During a chemistry class at 9:00 a.m., on November 2, 1960

Place: Bay Ridge High School, Room 304

Mystery: A blue crystal of copper sulfate was heated in a crucible. Shortly after, the only contents of the crucible were a white powder and some water.

Possibilities: (a) The teacher again used magic.  
(b) Someone decided to make a fair exchange: a crystal for some powder and water.

What happened? Can you solve the mysteries?

Hint: Are these the only possibilities? If not, which were left out?

Solutions: See page 4 of the *Ridge Echo*.

## Excuses—Excuses

Excuses! Excuses! Where, oh where am I to find new excuses? The ones I've been using all year are so conventional that I'm beginning to see through them, myself. Let's see now, what can I use for the new year?

**Lateness:** After all, everyone is expected to be late. If this weren't so, there wouldn't be the phrase: "Better late than never."

**No Homework:** Well, I didn't have the time because I was busy practicing Ben Franklin's advice: "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man... wise."

**Failing tests:** Well, there are only two possibilities: failing and passing. According to the law of averages, I can't pass all the time.

Of course, I can always resort to putting the blame on someone else. The bus driver was so busy shouting: "Move to the rear!" that he forgot to keep driving. And don't forget, "I'd have passed if the right questions were asked."

Well, these aren't nearly enough, but they'll do for today. I can always think of more later.

## Art Schoarship Winner

Irena Glinski of 8-101A will receive the Youth's Friends Medal for outstanding contributions to art in Bay Ridge High School. As Art Editor of the Yearbook, she has devoted many hours to this project. Irena, who came to Bay Ridge by way of Venezuela, hopes to go to an art school after her January graduation. Later she plans on attending the Fashion Institute of Technology to study for a career in the fashion trades.

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# A T-E-A-M on the B-E-A-M

By Florence Cafero and Veronica Pidala

The City Football Championship was won not only by Brooklyn Tech players, but also by the Cheerleaders and Boosters of Bay Ridge, who as you will see, led them to victory.

"I'm brave, and I like to do crazy things." This is the way that the Captain of Cheerleaders, Joan Margarella of (7-305A), describes herself. Joan, interested in all kinds of sports, entered Cheerleaders while still a newcomer at Bay Ridge High.

When it comes to home life, Joan can be considered an "All American Girl." She likes operas, classical music, and rock 'n roll. Joan's interest in music led to her becoming a member and vice-president of chorus. Led by this musical inspiration, Joan has taught herself to play the piano.

Joan's school-life is particularly brighter with the presence of book-keeping. She hopes to go to college to prepare for a career as an accountant.

Working alongside Joan is Georgiana Weiss, (7-208A), the proud captain of Boosters. When asked about her interests, Georgiana remarked, "I'm just a typical teenage girl, who enjoys the things that most teenagers enjoy. My main interest, however, is football and my pride and joy—Boosters, of course."

Her strong interest in the Boosters has been illustrated this past football season, in many ways. Georgiana (with Brooklyn Tech's cooperation) has purchased Booster buttons which many girls wear proudly. The Cheering teams, both Cheerleaders and Boosters, have illustrated their talents by appearing on television twice. Many compliments have been paid them because of their splendid appearance.



L. G. Weiss, R. J. Margarella

It took plenty of hard work, perseverance, and patience to make Boosters so successful. Without doubt, Georgiana Weiss deserves much honor and credit for doing such a splendid job with Boosters. Georgiana admits that most of her leisure time is taken up by Boosters but she still finds time for record playing and dancing.

The co-captain of Cheerleaders is Patricia DeVito of (7-202A). Pat's interest in sports came naturally. She learned to swim at the age of four. This early start in sports helped her to develop her strong interest in water skiing, tobogganing and snow skiing.

"I have a little goal book in my head, and being a versatile girl is one of the things I want to achieve." These are Pat's feelings about her life—present and future. At the moment, she can be considered a normal American girl. She likes crazy foods, especially Armenian Rice. Her favorite flowers are violets. She thinks that orchids "look like spiders and haven't a worthwhile scent."

Pat's future is tied in with her present attitudes. She likes people who dress well, and hopes to become a clothing retailer.

Marie Forsythe of 7-208A is the co-captain of Boosters. Her interest in sports can be traced back to her days in the Annex, where she was captain of her basketball team and a member of Blue Leaders.

Aside from her participation in sports, both inside and outside school, Marie is a girl with typical teenage interests. She enjoys rock 'n roll music, dancing, swimming and seeing Broadway plays, her favorite being "The Miracle Worker."

She has enjoyed working with Boosters immensely and was especially impressed on the day of the City Championship. To illustrate the spirit of the girls, she said, "On the day of the City Championship game, they came to cheer the boys on a muddy field, while the rain came down in torrents."

With such vigorous girls backing them up, it is easy to see why Brooklyn Tech had such a successful football season.

## Help Given to College Bound

By Roseanne Lunetta

Do you want to get the most out of college? Perhaps the advice of Dr. Thomas Clark Pollack, dean of Washington Square College will be beneficial to you.

The dean's suggestions are:

1. Before classes begin, a discussion with your faculty advisor will help you get your bearings.
2. Study in a quiet, private place.
3. Skim through your textbooks to get an idea of the coming term's work.
4. In taking lecture notes, don't overlook the main points by taking minor ones.
5. Do some supplementary reading.
6. Teachers are human and they approach their subjects differently.
7. Eat the proper foods and get enough sleep.
8. If you miss important points, don't hesitate to ask for help.
9. Face your weaknesses and try to conquer them.
10. Ration your extra curricular activities.

## "Without It— I'd Be Lost"

I've often heard of the many theories of "compactness," but this is too much! Nowadays, to look at anyone's wallet, brings to mind the phrase: "holds everything but the kitchen sink," and this is only a slight exaggeration. Without my wallet, I'd be completely lost.

The purpose of a wallet is to hold money, but when you're as broke as I am as often as I am, you have to use it for something else. Of course, there are essentials for a wallet, such as pictures, G.O. buttons, school and senior pins. Also, for emergencies, I carry safety pins, band-aids, needle and thread, and aspirins. Naturally, I mustn't forget to carry along my assignments, shopping list, used theatre tickets, library and club membership cards, and a list of things I mustn't forget to do.

These are the essentials, the things I wouldn't be without. There are things, too, that I carry around in my little wallet, but not as often, such as money order stubs, telephone numbers (my little black book), and stamps. And on some rare occasions—very rare ones—I have some money tucked away in the folds (not much of course).

Yes, without my wallet, I'm nothing!

# Career Clues

SUCCESS

This column is devoted to brief answers to specific questions about occupations and post-high school training room and place it in the Career Clues Question Box in Office 355, or place it in Mrs. Gillam's letterbox.

Q. I want to work full time after I graduate in January '61, but I cannot take the time to go for an interview now because I need all the time I have to study for examinations. Can you suggest where I might apply after I have graduated.

(Patricia Lattanzi, 8-101A)

A. While there are many other companies where you might apply, the following companies have very recently informed the Placement Office that they are interviewing typists, clerks, and some machine operators for full-time positions: McGraw Hill Publishing Co., Brown Bros. Harriman & Co., INA (Insurance Co. of North America Companies); Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York Life Insurance Co., American Telephone & Telegraph Co., Western Electric. (There are ample stenographic positions available for those who are qualified to fill them.) Come to the Placement Office for an introduction and hold it till you are ready to use it.

\* \* \*

Of interest to the Class of June 1961:

If you are one of the large number of girls in this class, a look at some conditions which will influence the number and kinds of jobs likely to be available to you as you try to obtain your first employment may prove of interest and of help.

According to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, published by the Labor Department, "Large numbers

of openings will occur each year in clerical occupations during the 1960's."

Factors which tend to increase the number of jobs in the clerical field are: (a) the large turnover in this field, the annual average being 25%, the reason frequently being marriage. (b) new openings resulting from growth, but the rate of growth will be slower than in the past.

Factors which tend to reduce the number of jobs in the clerical field are: (a) Introduction of labor-saving devices and of more efficient methods. Quoting the *Handbook* again: "The overall effect of the use of electronic data-processing systems is to displace many clerks in routine and repetitive jobs—such as sorting, filing, and operating small machines, and to create a few new higher skill and usually better paid jobs.

But note this: "The introduction of electric typewriters, duplicating equipment, machines to take dictation and other improvements in methods of writing and copying letters and reports has failed to halt the rise in the employment of secretaries, stenographers, and typists. . . . Workers in jobs requiring use of considerable judgement or contact with other people—secretaries, receptionists, claim clerks, etc. will be least affected by office mechanization and automation."

(b) Displacement of workers in other occupations sends these into the clerical field to seek and to obtain work—this has the effect of reducing the opportunities for new entrants into the labor market. The moral is clear: *The better prepared you are—in personal qualities and in the basic abilities and skills—the better your chance of congenial employment will be.*

## Can You Guess Who She Is?

By Marie Barsanti and Pat Labozetta

reporters brought her to Room 501, in Bay Ridge High, for further questioning.

During the interrogation it was disclosed that she is a member of the Bay Ridge High School faculty. The following are the facts as they were told on that bleak, damp morning. Nothing has been omitted since nothing else is known.

She was born a normal, healthy child, 7 pounds,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce, in Midwood Hospital, located in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn. In her youth she attended Saint Saviour High School and later Notre Dame College in Staten Island. As a college student she became interested in Radio and T.V. production but later changed her mind in favor of teaching. Though her main vocation is teaching she has engaged herself in extra-curricular activities. Those which are known to us are: horseback riding, playing golf, and, as evident, making snowmen. Other miscellaneous information gathered during the short interview: she enjoys going to the theatre and as an aftermath eating Italian or French food.

Our conference was interrupted at 7:57, by the shrill sound of the school bell. Hastily the mystery woman collected her things and dashed out of the room. In her haste she left behind a picture . . . the only clue to her identity.

Pondering over their notes, Friday and Saturday discovered that a woman with such a vivacious personality would make a perfect subject for the Celebrity column of the *Ridge Echo*.

Look for her name in this issue of the *Ridge Echo*.

## Bay Ridge's Flags Don't Wave

Have you ever noticed the *Ridge Echo's* "dress"? That's right; I said "dress." The *Ridge Echo* has one, the same as you and I, but not for the same moral reason. This type of "dress" is defined to be the arrangement of articles, cartoons, headlines, and pictures on a page.

Every newspaper has a flag, but not one of these is able to wave, as flags usually can. Why is this? Well, the flag isn't really a flag at all, but the masthead, a listing of the newspaper's title, ownership and staff.

Not that the *Ridge Echo* is rich, but in each and every issue, there are several "banks" on every page. A "bank" or "deck" can be a linear division, a headline, or it may be the second of two headlines for any one article.

Another oddity in the world of journalism is the grapevine that can never produce any grapes. This isn't so because it is an old, withered vine but because it is really a story that can be put in any issue of a paper without being considered untimely.

Perhaps you have encountered the staff's lifeless "morgue" which contains, not dead bodies, but reference material which can be used as background information about previous events.

## Mysteries No Match for D.A.

Dear Ridgeites:

The possibility: The conversion of matter had been left out in case one. An electric current can break up water into its component gases, hydrogen and oxygen, which are invisible, but can be tested for. This was what happened, for a burning splint proved the presence of the two gases in the apparatus. Thus, the water was neither destroyed nor stolen, but transformed; conversion of matter.

Detectives Anonymous

Dear Ridgeites,

As in case one, a possibility had been omitted in case two. It is the definition of a crystal. Whenever a crystal is heated, it loses water. This water of hydration is what makes a substance a crystal and what determines the color of that crystal. Had this water been added chemically to the powder, the result would have been a crystal of copper sulfate.

Detectives Anonymous



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